

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 to 4, 9 to 11, 16 to 18, and 23 to 25 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add New Claims 37 to 40 as shown below.

Please amend Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12, 13, 15, 19 to 22, 26, to 30, 31, 35 and 36, to read as follows.

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1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:
- a reception unit means for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;
- an output unit means for outputting the images received by said reception unit means in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; and
- a notification unit means for acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate distribution of the images received by said reception unit means ~~while said reception means is receiving the images, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images being received by said reception means~~
- wherein said notification unit causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed, and
- wherein said notification unit notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received

images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1 [[3]], wherein ~~the change in~~ changing the image information ~~displayed on the display unit~~ is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication terminals.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1 [[4]], wherein said notification unit means does not perform notification when the frame rate is high, and performs notification when the frame rate is reduced.

7. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification unit means comprises one of flashing of an icon, display

of character information, and display of numerals.

8. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;

outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images; and

acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate distribution of the images received in said receiving step ~~while performing said receiving step, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images being received by said reception means~~

wherein said acquiring and notifying step causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed, and

wherein said acquiring and notifying step notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to Claim 8 [[10]], wherein ~~the change in information~~ changing the image information displayed on the display unit is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication terminals.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to Claim 8 [[11]], wherein the notification is not performed when the frame rate is high, and is performed when the frame rate is reduced.

14. (Original) A communication method according to Claim 8, wherein the notification comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

15. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:  
a reception unit ~~means~~ for receiving a part or all of images generated from image generation units of a plurality of corresponding communication terminals by

switching the images;

an output unit means for outputting the images received by said reception unit means in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images;

an assigning unit means for assigning an arbitrary image from among the multiple images;

a control unit means for controlling a state of outputting of the image assigned by said assigning unit means; and

a notification unit means for acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate distribution of the images received by said reception unit means ~~while said reception means is receiving the images, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images being received by said reception means~~

wherein said notification unit causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed, and

wherein said notification unit notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15 [[17]], wherein ~~the change in information~~ changing the image information displayed on the display unit is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication terminals.

20. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15 [[18]], wherein said notification unit means does not perform notification when the frame rate is high, and performs notification when the frame rate is reduced.

21. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said notification unit means comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

22. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:  
receiving a part or all of images generated from image generation units of a

plurality of corresponding communication terminals by switching the images;

outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images;

assigning an arbitrary image from among the multiple images;

controlling a state of outputting of the assigned image; and

acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate distribution of the images received in said receiving step ~~while performing said reception step, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images being received by said reception means~~

wherein said acquiring and notifying step causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed, and

wherein said acquiring and notifying step notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to Claim 22 [[24]], wherein ~~the change in~~ changing the image information ~~displayed on the display unit~~ is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating a corresponding one of the plurality of communication terminals.

27. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to Claim 22 [[25]], wherein ~~the~~ said notification step is not performed when the frame rate is high, and is performed when the frame rate is reduced.

28. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to Claim 22, wherein said ~~the~~ notification step comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

29. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program, said program comprising:

a reception process code for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;

an output process code for outputting the received images in order to display



the images on a display unit as multiple images; and

a notification process code for acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate distribution of the images received by said reception process code ~~while said reception process code is receiving the images, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images being received by said reception~~ means

wherein said notification process code causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed, and

wherein said notification process code notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

30. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program, said program comprising:

a reception process code for receiving a part or all of images generated from image generation units of a plurality of corresponding communication terminals by switching the images;

an output process code for outputting the received images in order to display the images on a display unit as multiple images;

an assigning process code for assigning an arbitrary image from among the multiple images;

a control process code of controlling a state for outputting of the assigned image; and

7 / a notification process code for acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate distribution of the images received by said reception process code ~~while said reception process code is receiving the images, wherein the state of distribution comprises information relating to an actual frame rate of the images being received by said reception means~~

wherein said notification process code causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the received images are displayed, and

wherein said notification process code notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

31. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:  
a reception unit for receiving images generated from a communication terminal;  
an output unit for outputting the images received by said reception unit in order to display the images on a display unit; and  
a notification unit for acquiring and notifying of a state of reception of said reception unit, the state of reception comprising a state of frame rate of the images received by said reception unit while said reception unit is receiving the images;

27  
wherein said notification unit causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, which the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when received images are ~~is different from the images received by said reception unit and displayed on the display unit, and notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information on the basis of the state of reception of said reception unit;~~

wherein said notification unit notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

~~wherein said notification unit notifies causes the display unit to display the~~

~~image information of the state of the frame rate together with the received images, and not to display the image information when the received images are not displayed.~~

32. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein changing the image information is a change in a state of display of an icon indicating the corresponding communication terminal.

33. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein said notification unit does not perform notification when the frame rate is high, and performs notification when the frame rate is reduced.

34. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein said notification unit comprises one of flashing of an icon, display of character information, and display of numerals.

35. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

receiving images generated from a communication terminal;

outputting the images received in said receiving step in order to display the images on a display unit; and

acquiring and notifying of a state of reception of said receiving step, the state of reception comprising a state of frame rate of the images received in said receiving

step while said receiving step is receiving the images;

wherein[[,]] said acquiring and notifying step causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the images received from the communication terminal, which the image information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when received images are ~~is different from the images received by said receiving step and displayed on the display unit, and notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information on the basis of the state of reception of said receiving step;~~[[,]]

7  
wherein said acquiring and notifying step notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

wherein said acquiring and notifying step causes the display unit to display the image information of the state of the frame rate together with the received images, and not to display the image information when the received images are not displayed.

36. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program, said program comprising:

a reception receiving code for receiving images generated from a communication terminal;

an output code for outputting the images received by said reception unit  
code in order to display the images on a display unit; and

a notification code for acquiring and notifying of a state of reception of said  
reception code ~~receiving step~~, the state of reception comprising a state of frame rate of the  
images received in said ~~receiving step~~ reception code while said ~~receiving step~~ reception  
code is receiving the images

wherein[[,]] said ~~acquiring and notifying step~~ notification code causes the  
display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to  
each of the images received from the communication terminal, which the image  
information being displayed on a predetermined area at a time when received images are is  
~~different from the images received by said receiving step and displayed on the display unit,~~  
and ~~notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information on the basis of the~~  
~~state of reception of said receiving step;[[.]]~~

wherein said notification code notifies of the state of frame rate by changing  
the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received  
images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is  
displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not  
changed, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the  
received images are not displayed.

~~wherein said acquiring and notifying step causes the display unit to display~~  
~~the image information of the state of the frame rate together with the received images , and~~  
~~not to display the image information when the received images are not displayed.~~

37. (New) A communication apparatus comprising:

a reception unit for receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;

an output unit for outputting the images received by said reception unit in order to display the images on at least one window of a display unit as multiple images;

a notification unit for acquiring and notifying of a state of reception of said reception unit while said reception unit is receiving the images; and

a selection unit for selecting one received image from the multiple images displayed on the display unit;

wherein said notification unit causes the display unit to display the received image selected by said selection unit in a window different from the window for the multiple images, and changes the state of the window in accordance with whether the selected received image is changed or not.

38. (New) The communication apparatus according to claims 37, wherein said notification unit changes an icon area of the window in accordance with whether the selected received images is changed or not.

39. (New) The communication apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the selected received image is larger than each of the images included in the multiple images.

40. (New) A communication method comprising steps of:

receiving images generated from a plurality of communication terminals;

outputting the received images in order to display the images on at least one window of a display unit as multiple images;

acquiring and notifying of a state of reception of said receiving step while said receiving step is receiving the images; and

selecting one received image from the multiple images displayed on the display unit;

wherein said notification step causes the display unit to display the received image selected by said selection unit in a window different from the window for the multiple images, and changes the state of the window in accordance with whether the selected received image is changed or not.

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